

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK  
GRAFTON, MA  
2007 APR 17 PM 9 10

*[Handwritten signature]*

## Minutes of the Finance Committee

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Public Meeting

Finance Committee Conference Room

7:30 P.M.

### Public Meeting

The public meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 7:31 P.M.

### Finance Committee members present:

Doris Metivier, Sue Robbins, Bill Hanley, Fred Churchill,

Don Davison (7:33 P.M.)

Gary Murray ( 8:03 P.M. )

**Finance Committee members absent:** Bob Foley (8:05 P.M.)

Dharmesh Shah

Dave Ross(8:00P.M.)

Audience present:

Members of the School Committee, Supt. Connors, Scott Browne

Town Administrator, Natalie Lashmit

### Transfer Request from the Reserve Fund

(left at 7:35 P.M.)

Roger Hammond was present to review the transfer request for Cemetery Overtime account

**in the amount of \$2,500.00**

19 Saturday

Motion:

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that 19 Saturday funerals the funds goes to free cash.  
from the Reserve Fund to Cemetery 3 hour minimum

Seconded: Bill Hanley

Discussion: Unforeseen expenses

Motion Carries.

Aye

Bill Hanley

Sue Robbins

Doris Metivier

Naye

Fred Churchill

Don Davison

### Highway overtime account

Projects completed. One Grafton Common  
due to unusually warm weather.

Discussion

\$65,000

Don Davison is going to recuse himself since he is a member of the Historical Society  
and the Historical Society is a tenant of One Grafton Common.

Special Town Meeting should this go to the town meeting for the towns people to review?

Roger Hammond will give the FinCom the figures for White metal collection and brush dump open  
For next week for the public meeting of April 18, 2007.

**Page 2 April 11, 2007 approved minutes of the Finance Committee**

Fred opened the discussion to fund the overtime so that the brush dump can be open this weekend and to pay for the overtime that is currently overbudget.

Motion: Fred Churchill moved that the Finance Committee approve the transfer request from the Reserve F to the Highway Overtime account in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Seconded: Bill Hanley.

Aye

Sue Robbins

Bill Hanley

Abstention

Doris Metivier

Don Davison

Fred Churchill.

Motion carries

Discussion with Roger Hammond re: Nelson Park

Maintenance and scheduling of recreational fields,

Mower that cuts the brush back

Roger Hammond has an opportunity to purchase a used mover from Holden.

and is recommending that this be purchased.

Finance Committee feels that this is not appropriate to purchase through the Reserve Fund and is suggesting that the purchase of the mower be placed on the town warrant.

Review the budget with the School Department members present:

General review of the meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

All were present at the 4/10 public meeting with the exception of Don Davison.

Presentation by Heidi Divecchio

Chapter 70 funds increase is due to the increase in student growth enrollment.

Foundation aid is where the additional state funds will come from.

the average income is slightly lower and that allowed the additional state funds.

Growth aid will not come from the state this year and growth aid will not come from the state next year.

\$546,000.00 less to make a balanced budget for the School Department.

\$290,000.00 more is needed to bring forth a level budget for the School Department for FY08.

k-5 grade there has been an increase of 38 students since October 2006.

Discussion re: the contracts negotiated with the school staff and the ownership of the committee to be responsible for the funds as a result of contract negotiations.

salaries and professional funds have been moved to utilities and professional supplies in FY08.

Supt. Connors responded to that comment by Sue Robbins

Circuit Breaker funds:

Grafton primarily uses these funds for out of district sped kids.

There are new guidelines that will not allow large sums to stay in this account.

\$481,000.00 has been turned back to the Town in the past.

A gentlemen's agreement made with Russ Connor

benefits package is on the town side of the bills for a retired teacher.

9 staff members to retire in June 07.

**Page 3 April 11, 2007 approved minutes of the Finance Committee**

Preparations have been made for 2 new staff members.

67% post employment benefit numbers.

61% for the town and 39% for the schools. To fund the health benefits.

The problem is compounded and the figures are not visible in the current budget.

Maintenance of our buildings vs. bond rating of the town

State funding must be applied for to repair school roofs. The Supt. Is

requesting the idea of moving forward and is anticipating little funds from the state.

\$300,000.00 earmarked for capital roof projects.

Health provider has been budgeted and the retirees have not been counted in.

Supt. Connors is suggesting that it cost less by repairing.

The school dept. budget has some funds that are earmarked for specific projects and some are not.

Fix the roof out of the current fiscal year budget?

No turnback money will be returned to free cash and not spend the remaining funds in the budget

The School Committee will get back to us by April 25th for the estimate for roofing.

ramp up operating for next year and then we are going to have a problem funding the following year.

6.5% increase for next year.

plan with the least negative impact and work on it collectively.

per \$100,000.00 it will cost the Town \$145,000. 00

Supt and Committee members left at 9:33 P.M.

Further discussion with the Town Administrator re: School budget for FY08.

Budget is balanced for FY08.

\$36,931,543.00 is the figure for the operating budget.

The main concern is the FY09 budget.

1/2 million dollars needed for the school side budget.

it's a matter of semantics.

**Town operating budget for FY08 minus the school budget figure**

Motion: Sue Robbins moved that the Finance Committee approve the

Operating budget for FY08 in the amount of 15,549,277.00

Seconded: Don Davison. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Fred Churchill moved that the Finance Committee adjourn the public meeting

Seconded: Sue Robbins. All in favor. Motion carries.

The public meeting of the Finance Committee adjourned at 10:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Fiocco